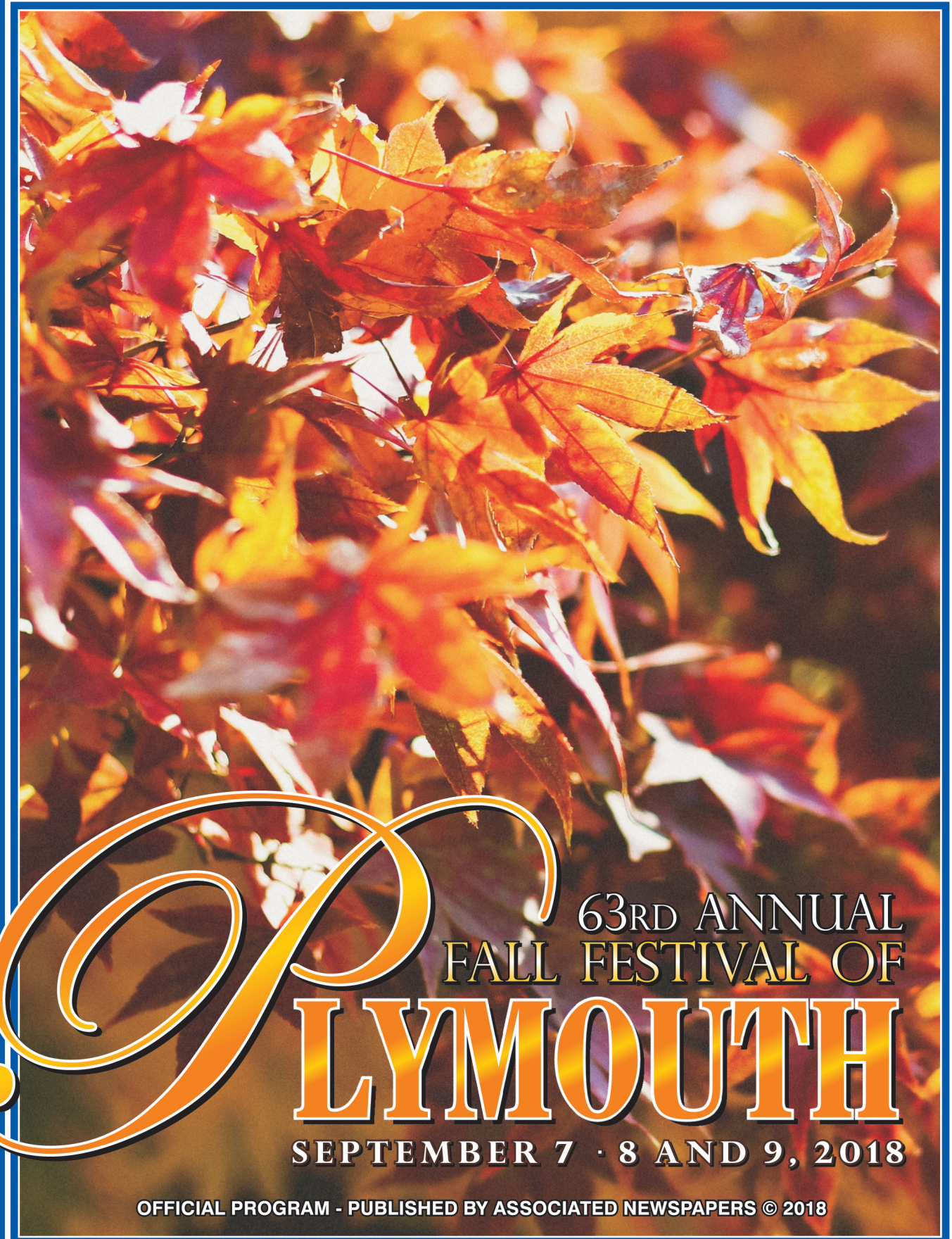

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The start of it all

63rd Chicken Sunday will have international flavor this year

The 63rd Annual Rotary Chicken Barbeque in Plymouth this year will have an international flavor.

As has become a tradition, the exchange students sponsored by the Rotary clubs in the district will be in attendance, getting a taste of real American barbeque during the Sunday event. Barbeque Chairman Mike Muma explained that for several years, the club has hosted the 15 or 20 exchange students, their host families and a club representative during the traditional Sunday event.

"These are students from around the world," Muma said. "They usually attend an orientation at the community center and then come to the barbeque for lunch. They will sit in a special area by the fountain near Union Street and we put up flags from the various countries represented."

Muma explained that Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock was the Rotary District Governor this year, adding even more importance to the visit of the exchange students.

If purchased on Sunday, the dinner tickets are $14. They can be purchased in front of The Gathering or at West Middle School at Sheldon Road and Ann Arbor Trail, where carryout service is handled. Dinners are available from 11 a.m. until sold out.

Muma, who joined the Noon Rotary Club in Plymouth in 1985 shortly after he and his wife moved to the community, said that he is hoping the event this year runs as smoothly as it has in the past.

"We will serve about 10,500 dinners," he said. "Nobody but the Plymouth Rotary Club could do it."

Muma and his committee will be helped by about 100 Rotarians and another 700 volunteers in the effort which actually begins Saturday evening behind The Gathering when a military-like operation begins building the long, narrow barbeque pits which produce the unique flavor of "Rotary Chicken." The pit walls are cinder blocks, some of which are still in use from the very first chicken barbeque which took place in a city park. About 500 people attended that barbeque, designed as a fundraiser to buy playground equipment for a local park.

The ground between the cinder

See **Rotary,** page 2

Rotary from page 1

block walls is covered with sand to protect the parking lot surface and then the pits are loaded with charcoal briquettes. The "smoke eaters" arrive no later than 7:30 a.m. on Sunday to stoke the fires and get the charcoal lit and at the ideal temperature for the chicken.

"This really is a labor of love," Muma said. "By the end of the barbeque, these guys are just covered, head to foot, with soot. It's a hard job."

While the smoke eaters are lighting the charcoal, the chicken is being seasoned and readied for the grills. Meanwhile tons of corn on the cob is being shucked and cleaned, readied for the boiler. The corn is from Brookside Farm and Vreeland and Gotfredson Road, Muma said, "and we know it is fresh."

Muma said that three semi-trucks full of food, one filled only with chicken, are used for the barbeque.

Members of the barbeque committee this year include Kent Early who handles the purchasing of supplies for the event; Brandon Bunt who oversees the preparation of the corn and huge boiler along with sanitation; Ken Jenkins who is responsible for tickets; Greg Stolz who schedules and oversees the volunteers; Andy Savage who handles the signs, the carry-out outposts and publicity and Eric Kostoff who coordinates the volunteer shirts, helps with the dry run and does whatever else is needed, Muma said.

Members of the Noon Rotary Club Barbeque Committee are ready and prepared for Chicken Sunday this year. Photo by Helen Yancy

They are aided by Rich Eisiminger, the barbeque chairman last year, who offers hints and advice as needed.

Muma said that as he was going through the ranks of the committee,

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handling the volunteers and the tickets were equal challenges.

"The weekend of the event, you just hope people will show up. These are all volunteers and making sure that you have the right number of people at the right places is a challenge." Muma said the parent coordinators who work with the student volunteer are always invaluable. Muma noted that the Rotary Club donates funds to the volunteer groups the students represent as a token of appreciation for their help.

Accounting for the ticket sales, too, presents a challenge, he said. "We give every Rotarian 25 tickets to sell and we also sell them in the two ticket booths called the doghouses. Keeping track of who sold how many takes some detailed recordkeeping," he said. "It is time consuming."

Muma was careful to explain that all the profits from the barbeque go to the Rotary Foundation and that from there the funds are primarily used for scholarships for local students, to both vocational schools and colleges.

Muma, an attorney in private practice in downtown Plymouth, said the entire barbeque is a pretty remarkable accomplishment.

The barbeque menu this year is unchanged, he said, and will include a half chicken, corn on the cob, a roll, chips, a cookie and a beverage. Tickets for the meals are $12 if purchased in advance from any Rotary Club member or at one of the ticket booths on Main Street.

If purchased on Sunday, the dinner tickets are $14. They can be purchased in front of The Gathering or at West Middle School at Sheldon Road and Ann Arbor Trail, where carryout service is handled. Dinners are available from 11 a.m. until sold out.

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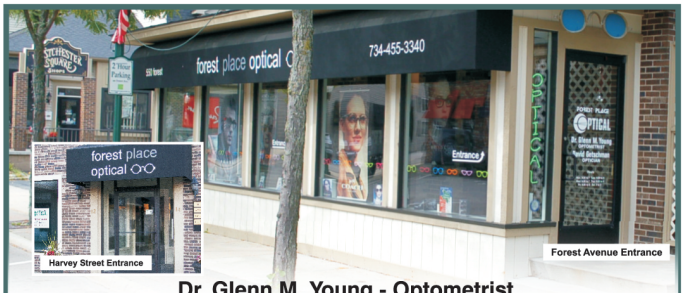

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Best of the best

Local restaurants bring special samples to Friday Taste Fest

Members of the Plymouth-Canton Civitans Club have been preparing for the Fall Festival Taste Fest for several months.

The club members do double duty during the festival each year with their booth outside Kellogg Park taking digital photos and putting them on buttons, magnets, Christmas ornaments, and round or square key chains. Club members have been doing this for "as long as anybody can remember" and have families who have visited the booth for years and have collected a visual record of their family, explained Kathy Turnquist, a long-time Civitans member who organizes the Taste Fest annually.

Members of the Plymouth Canton Civitans Club are ready to host the annual Taste Fest which opens the Fall Festival along with their traditional booth on Main Street.

The Taste Fest takes place in Plymouth Old Village from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7. The event, as has become a tradition, will take place at Station 885 where a gigantic 40- by 120-foot tent will be erected and there will be live music, a cash bar and food from more than 20 restaurants.Ticket hold-

ers will enjoy treats from: Anna's House, Applebee's Grill & Bar, Bahama Breeze, b.d.'s Mongolian Grill, Beyond Borders-Latin Street Food, Dave's Jump'n Jambalaya Sauce, Edible Arrangements, Grand Traverse Pie Co., Granite City Food & Brewery, Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches, J.B.'s Smokehouse, LaBistecca Italian Grille, Leo's Coney Island, Scramblers, Station 885, The Cupcake Station, The Polish Pantry, Vintner's Canton Winery, Westborn Market, Zoup!-Northville.

In addition to the wine tasting included in the admission, Granite City will be offering beer samples.

Turnquist again expressed her gratitude to the participating restaurants who, she said, donate so heavily to helping the Civitans cause each year. "We couldn't do this without their generosity," she said.

Rob Costanza, owner of Station 885, will sponsor the party that will continue following the Taste Fest with live

music and a cash bar. He also noted that the participating restaurants really demonstrate community involvement with their support of the Civitans group.

"These guys deserve a great deal of thanks. They go all out for this event," Costanza said.

Pre-sale tickets are priced at $15 for adults and $5 for children ages 5-10. Children younger than 5 are admitted free with an adult. Tickets can be purchased at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce or Station 885 by noon on Sept. 7. Tickets purchased at the event will be priced at $20 this year with tickets for children ages 5-10 priced at $10. Credit cards will be accepted.

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Hocus pokus

Magician will bring illusions to Kellogg Park stage

Friends of the Plymouth District Library will bring some real magic to the Fall Festival stage this year.

The Friends are sponsoring a performance by Gordon Russ, a leading Detroit magician with an extensive list of credits. Russ will perform at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday on the Kellogg Park stage. Russ, and his trusty sidekick, George the Raccoon, are expected to keep things lively. The event is free and there is no registration.

In the event of inclement weather, the show will be moved to the main level meeting room in the library at 223 South Main St. in downtown.

Russ has been practicing his magic since professional debut which included an extended overseas tour in 1988. He has traveled and entertained in Europe, Australia and China. Nationally, he has performed his illusions in New York, Chicago and at the Toledo Zoo along with other venues. His special style of street magic never fails to draw a crowd, organizers said.

He has appeared at the Ann Arbor Art Fair, the East Lansing Art Fair, Grosse Pointe Art on the Pointe, and the

Gordon Russ delights and entertains with the help of an audience volunteer.

Liberty Festival in Canton Township. He has entertained the fans at Joe Louis Arena for the Detroit Red Wings' Skate with the Stars, and graced the stage at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. One of Russ' most memorable moments, he said, came when his magic was requested at a private performance for former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali.

Gordon's introduction to the world of magic came early. He learned the art of illusion from his father, who made sure magic was an everyday part of growing up. Gordon currently resides in Michigan with his wife, Cyndi, and his two sons, Gordon and Tanner.

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Community tradition

City welcomes weekend visitors to annual event

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Paul Sincock, Plymouth city manager, is a bit too young to recall the original Rotary picnic in what was then Hamilton Park which has evolved into the festival celebrated the weekend following Labor Day every year in the city..

"It's a great community picnic," said Sincock, who is in the trenches of the Plymouth Noon Rotary barbeque grills and serving lines each year. Fall Festival is set for Sept. 7-9 in and around Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Its roots go back to the late 1950s Rotary picnic at what's now Fairground Park, noted Sincock, who's the district governor for Rotary District 6400 this year. "It eventually moved downtown and turned into a several-day festival," he said.

"It's where the community reconnects with each other before the winter months set in," he said.

Public safety is a top concern, he agreed, noting, "This is obviously one of our major events." Fire stations are fully staffed during Plymouth Fall Festival with Huron Valley Ambulance paramedics traveling by bicycle through the crowds to make sure everyone is OK.

The ambulances are there "in the event we need to transport somebody," said Sincock, noting Plymouth Police Department staffers usually walk through Fall Festival grounds. The city of Plymouth works with Wayne County Sheriff's reservists to assist with overnight security, he said.

"It's always a great event, come see everyone in town. Plymouth is very service-based rather than government-based," said Sincock. Many service clubs and organizations participate in the three-day festival.

"They're such a critical element to the culture and community," said Sincock.

Agreeing with Sincock is Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. Graff noted the heavy Plymouth involvement of nonprofits and service clubs.

"The government does not necessarily run those," Graff said. "They help facilitate them. We all do our own part."

He's proud of the chamber Saturday morning Farmers Market, continuing through October in and around The Gathering in downtown Plymouth.

"The service clubs come together" for Fall Festival, Graff said, citing the Spaghetti Dinner, Pancake Breakfast and others put on by service club members. "Those are major fundraisers for those clubs. We're fortunate with the community we have," said Graff.

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Kiwanis Club will serve annual pancake breakfast

The Kiwanis Foundation Pancake Breakfast is a fixture of Plymouth Fall Festival, and is set for 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 8, in downtown The Gathering, across from Kellogg Park in Plymouth.

Mark Riegal, Kiwanis Foundation chair, noted that the breakfast dates back some 40 years. "We have a lot of help within the club," he said. "Many of our members are very involved. We have many hands on deck."

Pre-sale tickets are $6, tickets on Saturday morning at the event are $7. Children ages 5 and under get a free meal with an adult ticket purchased.

The work includes both Plymouth clubs, the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, which meets at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month at E.G. Nick's on Forest Avenue in Plymouth, and the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, meeting at noon each Thursday at The Courthouse Grille, 41661 Plymouth Road in Plymouth (near the 35th District Court).

"Together, we form the Foundation," explained Riegal. He can be reached at (734) 718-6176 to purchase tickets in advance.

The evening Kiwanis got the Pancake Breakfast started. "They asked us to get involved. Our club's a little larger," said Riegal, a noon club member.

The Kiwanians set up for the breakfast cooking the night before, along with handling paperwork and attending committee meetings. "And then we come back and get everything going. We wait for Bingo to be finished up," he said.

The Kiwanis Foundation supports The Salvation Army, Methodist Children's Society Home in Redford, high school graduate scholarships, the Kiwanis high school arm known as The Key Club and more.

"We contribute to local families in need that come to our attention," Riegal said, adding Kiwanis also gives to First Step, which helps domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

They get help at the Saturday breakfast from The Rising Star Special Olympians as well as the new Aktion Club for adults with developmental delays, including cleanup assistance. Riegal noted that this year there will be a two-line system which should move faster than before.

"Of course, there's many at the grill," he noted of Kiwanians, who store their grills near The Miracle League of Plymouth field.

The Bob Evans products pack in a crowd each year. "They allow us to use their pancake mix and sausages," Riegal said.

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Kiwanis serves the children of the world. The Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation is large supporter of local individuals in need, including Michigan Motts Children's Hospital, local scholarships at PCEP, First Step, Salvation Army, Kids Against Hunger, and the Key Club at PCEP.

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Hometown heroes

Veterans' groups benefit from Fall Festival events, sales

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

For more than 20 years, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 528 as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post 6695, have been selling pop, water and military memorabilia during the Plymouth Fall Festival from a booth on Main Street. The veterans also organize the Saturday-Sunday car show, mostly through the VVA.

The post leaders said they really appreciate support during Fall Festival from E.G. Nick's restaurant owners, who give them the cover charge from the Party Tent which features live music Friday and Saturday night during

Don Dignan, Ron King, John Spencer, Rick Adis, and Bob Lamoureux are Vietnam veterans involved in the Plymouth Fall Festival along with a host of activities to assist returning military veterans. The men are leaders in the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post 6695.

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the Festival. The veterans check IDs at the entrance to the tent where the live bands entertain and noted that people do drop more than the cover charge into the jars when they realize that the money all goes to the veterans' group.

The conflict the veterans of the Vietnam War saw didn't end with their return home during the late 1960s. Many faced angry crowds, jeers and the hostility of their fellow Americans.

"The first thing I did was get out of my uniform even though I was proud to wear it," veteran Rick Adis said. "I just didn't want to take all the crap."

Vietnam veteran Ron King of Plymouth Township recalled an airline gate agent in San Diego, California, suggesting he change his clothes as his uniform could offend some people. "We didn't get treated well," he said.

They sat down with Vietnam veterans Don Dignan of Livonia, a Dearborn native, John Spencer who lives in Canton and Bob Lamoureux, also of Canton, to discuss their respective returns home from Vietnam and attitudes in the decades since then.

> *The first thing I did was get out of my uniform even though I was proud to wear it.*

"I think that was the welcome home," Dignan said of the 1982 construction start of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C. King noted the recent respectful reaction at the Plymouth Fourth of July Parade, including parade goers who stand to show gratitude to veterans.

The men hold leadership roles in both the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 528 as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post 6695, at 1426 S. Mill St. in Plymouth. Returning veterans from Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere are encouraged to call (734) 459-6700 to learn about membership and benefits offered to veterans.

"That's therapeutic, people who know what you're talking about. Who better than another combat veteran?" Dignan asked.

He recalled leaving Vietnam, "It was the happiest day when I left there," he said.

Dignan said the post has a few Korean veterans who are members. A couple of World War II veterans remain, and Persian Gulf service personnel have joined in recent years, he added.

The post is reaching out to younger veterans, and the men point with pride to Iraq combat medics James Kendall and Jessica Linna who have joined recently

"I was in two years. That was enough," Lemoureux said of his Vietnam service." He was in country for

See **Veterans,** page 14

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Veterans from page 13

14 days and injured by napalm, earning a Purple Heart. Spencer was in Vietnam for 1966, in service 1965-67. Adis was in-country during 1966-67.

Dignan served 1967-68, in Vietnam the last half and first half of those years. King and Adis were in the U.S. Air Force, the rest Army. "We flew search and rescue," recalled King, showing photos of himself. "I'm the only officer in the bunch, the token."

All five men are current or past VVA presidents. King recalls of the 1960s and earlier 1970s, "Every night, there was Vietnam news" on TV.

King was career Air Force for 22 years, in Vietnam 1971-72.

Spencer recalls coming home, "When I left Vietnam it was 91 degrees. It was January. It was freaking cold" at home.

Adis adds he's back in sound shape after being sprayed with Agent Orange while in Vietnam "thanks to my wife.

This wall of photos at the post on Mill Street in Plymouth shows Vietnam War personnel in uniform when they were young servicemen.

Forty-eight years we've been married." Dignan and his wife have been married 45 years, and there's an active Ladies Auxiliary at the post on Mill Street.

"I got drafted while I was in Vietnam," said King, who wrote from Saigon he couldn't report to Detroit's Fort Wayne for a physical.

King questioned a recent large military budget bill, adding of the post and others working to inform veterans of housing, health care and education benefits.

"It's starting to gain more ground every day," King said. A nearby wall poster lists a Veterans Crisis Line of 1-800-273-8255 press 1, a cooperative effort to address veteran suicides.

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Using their noodle

Morning Rotary Club Spaghetti Dinner funds civic work

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

A trio entertains the dinner crowds at the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. Spaghetti Dinner where members work to create a party atmosphere for everyone.

Kate Rosevear of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is proud of fellow club members who put on the annual Spaghetti Dinner. This year it will be from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, in the party tent behind E.G. Nick's restaurant on Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth.

"It's a fun event for the community because it's a party," said Rosevear, a past club president who owns Travel Leaders in Plymouth Township, a travel agency. "A party atmosphere. It's an Italian party."

Tickets for the Spaghetti Dinner cost $10 either in advance or during the dinner, and are available by calling (734) 455-5810.

Rosevear emphasizes there's now drive-thru carryout available. "And we're getting more and more of that which is good," she said.

There will be both a strolling musician and meatball toss for entertainment. Children age 5 and under receive a free kid's meal for each adult meal purchased.

The adult meal includes Mama Mucci's noodles, marinara sauce, meatballs, salad with dressing, water, and a Jimmy John's chocolate chip cookie. The kid's meal has Mama Mucci's noodles, marinara sauce, meatballs, a Jimmy John's chocolate chip cookie, and water. Plastic table utensils are provided, and the adult meal also includes a roll.

Most proceeds support scholarships "for kids who have overcome challenges to graduate from high school," she said. The club, founded in 1996, also supports the Infant Preschool Special Education Program of the Plymouth-Canton schools, puts on an annual Senior Dinner for the December holidays, and several other community activities.

With partners, club members are building their second school in Guo, Ghana. Closer to home, they also support a Child Advocate program for youth in foster care.

Rosevear said the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser has been ongoing for 13-14 years with much success, more so since the move a few years ago from Kellogg Park where cooking was a challenge, to the covered tent behind E.G. Nick's. The tent offers a covered dining area to protect diners from sun and, worst case scenario, rain.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets 7-8:15 a.m. each Tuesday at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, 650 Church St. New members are welcome, and should use the side door off of the parking lot by other parked vehicles.

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On the Stage

Plymouth Fall Festival
2018 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet Stage
Kellogg Park

Friday, Sept. 7

7 p.m.	Power Play Detroit (Presented by Schoolcraft College)

Saturday, Sept. 8

9 a.m.	Optimist Pet show
11 a.m.	Optimist Bird show
Noon	Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps
1 p.m.	Lions Club Leader Dogs Come celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Lions Club Leader Dogs.
2 p.m.	Forever after Productions/Dance Beat
3:30 p.m.	The Plymouth Library presents Magician Gordon Russ Magician and comedian Gordon Russ, will have everyone amazed and laughing. Gordon Russ and his trusty side kick, George the Raccoon, will keep things lively. **If inclement weather the program will take place at the Plymouth District Library.*
4:30 p.m.	Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers
7 p.m.	Dale Hicks Band (Presented by Beaumont)

Sunday, Sept. 9

11 a.m.	Midwest Tae Kwan Do
Noon	Chiefettes, Saberttesm, Rocket's Pompon squads
1 p.m.	Plymouth Canton Educational Park Choir
2 p.m.	Spotlight Players
4 to 6 p.m.	The Johnnies

Schedule of Events

Fall Festival Hours

Friday, Sept. 7 Noon until Dusk

Saturday, Sept. 8 7 a.m. until Dusk

Sunday, Sept. 9 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 7

Craft Show – Noon until Dusk
Between Penniman Avenue and Church Street
Monster Truck Rides – All Day
at PARC
650 Church St.
Carnival Rides – 3 p.m.
Bingo – 6-9 p.m.
The Gathering
Taste Fest – 6-8 p.m.
Station 885, Old Village
Smokin' Mirrors band
8 p.m. Midnight
E.G. Nick's Party Tent
500 Forest Ave.

Saturday, Sept. 8

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
7 a.m. until Noon
The Gathering
Monster Truck Rides – All Day
at PARC
650 Church St.
VFW Car Show
Main Street
Optimist Pet Show – 9 -11 a.m.
Kellogg Park
Optimist Bird Show – 11 a.m.
Kellogg Park
Craft Show – 9 a.m. until Dusk
Between Penniman Avenue and Church Street
Rotary A.M. Spaghetti Dinner 4 – 8 p.m.
E.G. Nick's Party Tent
Power Play band
8 p.m. – Midnight
E.G. Nick's Party Tent
500 Forest Ave.

Sunday, Sept. 9

Craft Show – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Between Penniman Avenue and Church Street
Blacksmith Demonstration – All Day
Kellogg Park
Carnival Rides – 11 a.m.
VFW Car Show
Main Street
Rotary Chicken Barbeque
11 a.m. until sold out
Carry-out at West Middle School

Church offers shuttle service again this year

One of the most popular attractions at the Plymouth Fall Festival year will operate every 20 minutes or so from the time the event opens on Friday until after it closes on Sunday.

More than 1,000 visitors to the event have discovered the convenient parking and shuttle service offered by Praise Baptist Church, which provides free parking at the church, located at 45000 North Territorial Road, about a quarter mile west of Sheldon Road. From there, visitors to the festival can ride in a comfortable shuttle which will transport them right to the center of the action without having to start their visit with the stress of trying to find a parking place downtown.

Most of the public parking lots in the community will be manned by various service clubs who will charge $5 or so to park. Those funds are used to support the community service projects of the clubs like Special Olympics, Lions, Rotary and Civitans. Without the volunteers' efforts to control the parking flow in the lots, parking in the public lots could experience serious traffic jams and even fender benders. The popularity of that paid parking is one of the motivating factors in the shuttles offered by the church.

Parking at the church is free, as are the shuttles, and there is no waiting in line or concern about heavy traffic getting in or out of the lots.

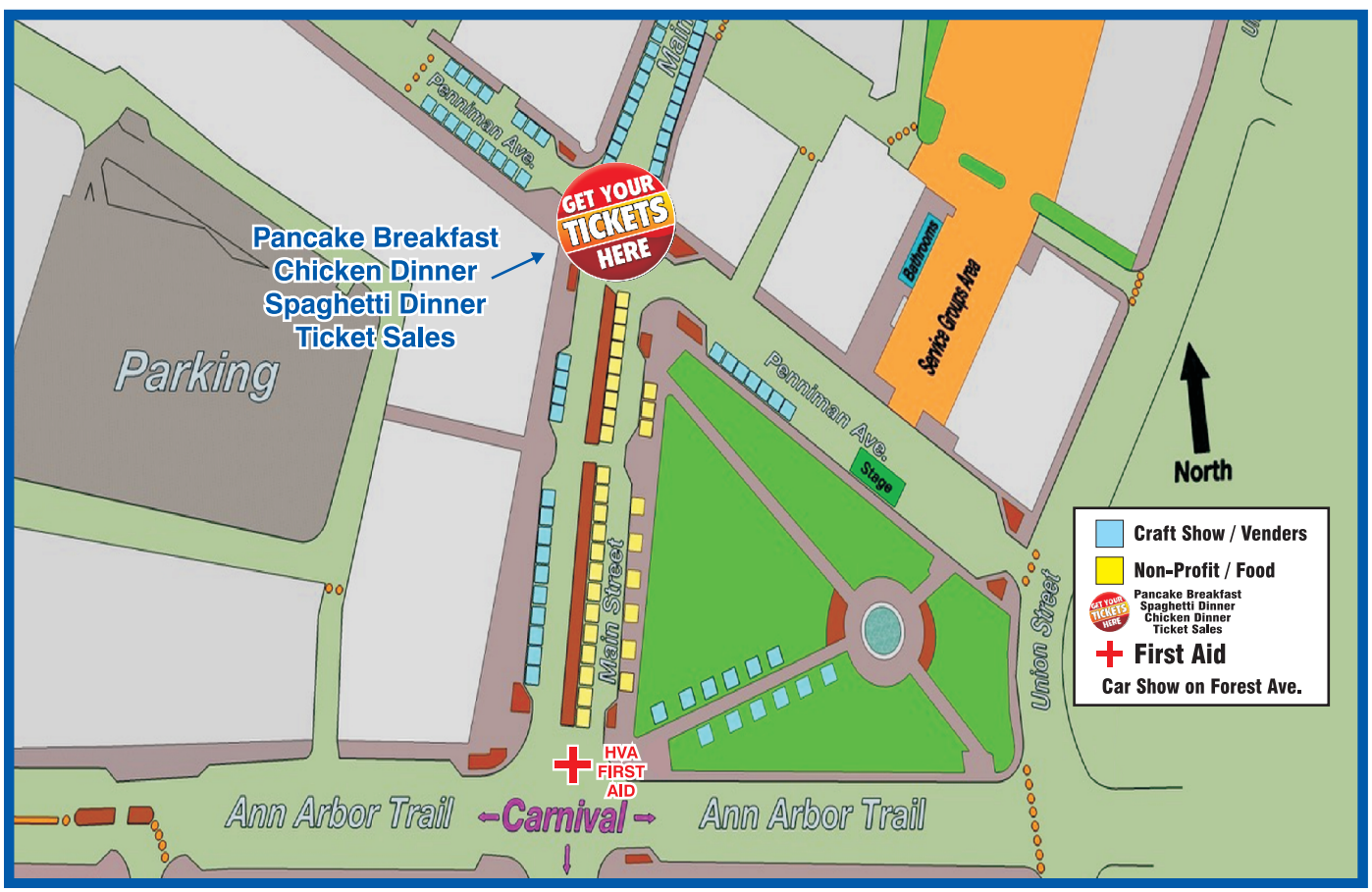
Last year, James Hooper, the chairperson of the missions and outreach at Praise Baptist Church said that the shuttle service has been without any untoward incidents during the past five years the church has offered the service. This is the seventh year the church has provided the service during the event.

"Many of the folks we shuttle are families who return every year once they discover how easy and convenient the service is," Hooper said in an earlier interview.

He added that many of the volunteers at various booths and events of the civic groups park at the church and use the shuttle service.

The shuttle picks passengers up at the church and transports them to the drop-off location, adjacent to Plymouth City Hall downtown. Passengers enter and exit right on Main Street.

The shuttles pick-up about every 20-minutes or so and there is rarely, if ever, a wait for service. They will operate for a half hour before the festival opens and for a half hour after closing time each day during the weekend.



The Rotary Club of Plymouth

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Club of Plymouth

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Best in show

Annual Optimists' Pet Show brings out best friends

Members of the Plymouth-Canton Optimist Club are proud of the 30-plus year Pet Show during Plymouth Fall Festival. This year, the Pet Show will take place from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Kellogg Park stage in downtown Plymouth.

Charlie Roebuck, a past president of the Plymouth-Canton Optimists said the event is fun for all ages.

"The event is mainly for kids and their pets. The Optimist International motto is 'Friend of Youth'. The show has three pet categories: dogs, cats and unusuals. Ribbons are awarded to pets with the longest tail, longest ears, best pet trick and best costume. Entries have worn large sunglasses, springy antennas, T-shirts, spotted red lady bug costumes and others."

The Pet Show/Contest will begin Saturday, Sept. 8, with a parade around Kellogg Park with all participants strutting their stuff, noted Plymouth-Canton Optimist Club President Pamela Batcho.

The Michigan Humane Society and other pet rescue organizations will have pets and their owners participating in the event.

"We will also have a special demonstration by Rainbow Feathers, a local bird rescue organization, after the official pet show concludes from approximately 11:15 a.m. to noon," Batcho said.

"Pets of all types are welcome. The pets must be alive and of the non-

See **Pet Show,** page 22

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P
A
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C

Pet Show from page 20

human variety. One year we had a child that wanted to register her little brother and one that wanted to enter a stuffed animal. Cute, but not eligible," she said.

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization of more than 2,500 local clubs whose members work to "make the future brighter by bringing out the best in children, in their communities, and in themselves," Roebuck said. Information is available at www.optimist.org.

The Plymouth Optimist Club, chartered in 1949, has partnered with numerous local service organizations to promote programs to enhance the community and support local youth. In the 1950s, the Plymouth Rotary and Plymouth Optimists came together to support the Plymouth Community Fall Festival for all to enjoy, Batcho said.

The Pet Show and Contest during the Plymouth Fall Festival is the longest running event the club sponsors.

In 2013, interest from Canton Township residents led to developing the combined Plymouth-Canton Optimist Club. Together the Optimists deliver programs within local schools and the community that enhance learning, develop leadership and promote positive citizenship.

The club meets twice monthly to plan and organize community events. For information about programs or membership, contact Batcho at plymouthcantonoptimist@gmail.com.

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Party on

Tent behind E.G. Nick's provides live entertainment

Frank Agostini and Tony Belli guarantee a good time at the Party Tent Friday and Saturday night during the Fall Festival.

As has become a tradition, a huge tent is erected in the parking lot behind E.G. Nick's restaurant at 500 Forest St. where there is live music and entertainment for the older than 21 crowd.

"It's a way to give back to the community and have a good time," Agostini said. There will be live entertainment with Smokin' Mirrors performing on Friday and Power Play entertaining the crowds on Saturday.

The $3 cover charge will again this year be donated to the Plymouth Canton Vietnam Veterans group.

"Hey, anything we can do to help these guys, we try to do it," Agostini said. "The community really responds, too, and we've seen people drop much more than the cover charge into the jar to help these guys with their efforts to support vets."

"The Fall Festival is all about the community," Agostini said. "We do this to have a good time and to support the community and the veterans. And we know, for sure, that people always have a great time here. It's a big party with a lot of fun."

Power Play

The Party Tent is in the lot which can also be accessed from Harvey Street. The Party Tent will be open from 8 p.m. until midnight each night and the bands usually begin to play around 9.

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Sun. 12-8

Good neighbors

Local restaurants support community events year round

The Plymouth Fall Festival is a weekend celebration of the deep sense of community in the area. This is the event each year when the entire community comes together to welcome visitors and locals alike to help celebrate everything that is Plymouth. Among the most visible supporters of the Fall Festival and the community every year are the local restaurants. And what better way to celebrate the town than with a real taste of the local restaurants that have made Plymouth a dining destination.

These local businesses help civic, community and school groups all year and actively participate in celebrating during Fall Festival. From American menu items with an upscale flavor to ethnic specialties, or fine dining to a quick lunch, these are the stars of the culinary community in Plymouth.

Enjoy!

E.G. Nick's
500 Forest Ave.
Plymouth
(734) 414-6400

A visit to E.G. Nick's on Forest Street in Plymouth has become a tradition for many Fall Festival visitors. They join the crowd of local residents who enjoy the menu of favorite dishes along with the new dishes added regularly by Chef Frank Agostini.

E. G. Nicks also boasts an extensive list of specially-brewed craft beers and unique cocktails, along with an impressive list of premium wines. There are specialty cocktails nearly every day served at "the longest bar in Plymouth."

The menu includes crowd-favorite items like Caprese ravioli, with a pesto sauce that brings diners back again and again. The exceptional flatbread pizzas offer unique toppings like bacon, lettuce and tomato or Caesar salad along with the expected traditional pepperoni and cheeses. The unique flatbread crust on these treats has made them one of the biggest sellers on the late-night and lunch menu, Agostini said. The imaginative new dishes like the pear and spinach salad added to the menu have drawn rave reviews from regulars.

The menu still includes the customer-favorite planked whitefish, chosen as the best in the state by food critics and the award-winning spare ribs, Bang-Bang Shrimp and bourbon pot roast nachos.

Agostini said the menu includes several items which can be prepared gluten free and some vegan dishes, which are becoming more and more popular.

Local diners know that the kitchen often offers lunch specials, using fresh ingredients and weekends almost

See **Restaurants,** page 27

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Restaurants from page 26

always include dinner specials, allowing Agostini to demonstrate some of the culinary creativity that he has displayed with his various TV appearances.

Meals range from $10 to $20 or so and are served in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. The restaurant is known for the varied menu, family-friendly atmosphere and spirit of fun, whether there is a festival going on or simply a celebration because it is Tuesday.

Greek Islands Eatery
306 South Main St.
Plymouth
(734) 335-6303

The Greek Island Restaurant located downtown on Main Street across from Kellogg Park is not just a typical Coney Island. The newly renovated interior includes bar service so that patrons can enjoy beer and wine with

their lunch or dinner.

The paintings of Greek gods on the high-ceilinged interior set the tone for the restaurant which offers far more than their favorite Coney Island hot dogs on the menu. The paintings are always a conversation starter at the full-service restaurant which offers an extensive menu and specialty weekend brunch dishes.

Choices on the newly redesigned menu include American favorites along with many homemade Greek specialties including moussaka, pastitsio, spinach pie and gyros. They also serve a wide array of salads, pitas, sandwiches and burgers, all at great prices.

The restaurant offers carry outs and has a banquet room and does catering.

Greek Island servers provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and service is always prompt and courteous and locals have come to depend on the quick service. Greek Islands is also family friendly, offering accommodations for children and families.

Hermann's Old Town Grille
195 West Liberty St.
Plymouth
(734)451-1213

Hermann's Old Town Grille is well-known to Plymouth locals and visitors alike for both the huge, drooling moose painted on the exterior wall and the

Welcome to Herman's Olde Town Grille. Nick Hermann opened the OTG in September 2003. Since then, Nick and his family have worked to create a neighborhood bar and grill that the people of Plymouth can enjoy. Hermann's goal is to provide good food, good service, a friendly atmosphere and good times for their customers.

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karlscabin.com

exceptional menu of fresh and well-prepared food.

This is a place that simply cannot be missed because of the exceptional atmosphere where too many unique items to list are on display along with the great food. Hermann's has been a part of the Plymouth community for decades, and for decades has been celebrated as the place to go for a good time, cold beer, a delicious burger or special menu item where fun is served as a side dish with every order.

The menu includes a full selection of specialty burgers, fresh salads, oven-baked pizza and unique sandwiches, all made to order.

The OTB (Old Town Burger) comes in a variety of configurations, all of which have made Hermann's famous. There are also special menu feature items every day.

Owners Nick and Sally Hermann pride themselves on the comfortable, eclectic atmosphere where people can enjoy themselves and relax while

enjoying good company and good food.

Hermann's is open from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon until 2 a.m. Sundays.

Karl's Cabin
6005 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth
(734) 455-8450

Built in the 1940s, Karl's Cabin is truly a Michigan Made log cabin roadhouse restaurant, bar and grill. Located just minutes west of downtown Plymouth and just east of Ann Arbor, the restaurant is a favorite of patrons from throughout the area.

Guests can enjoy rustic charm, friendly service and a large menu including hand-cut grilled steaks, fresh seafood, BBQ, fresh pasta, big salads, burgers, artisan sandwiches and daily chef-created features. Slow-roasted prime rib is served every Friday and Saturday night. Dinners are priced from $8 to $20 while lunch prices range from $6-$15.

The chef prefers to shop locally when feasible and often brings in organic and natural foods for a substantial gluten free menu. Karl's offers 20 Michigan craft beers on draft including Bell's, Founders and Short's. The extensive wine list includes 60 wines to choose from with many wines

See **Restaurants,** page 29

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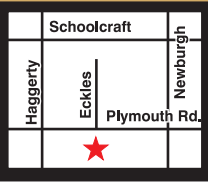

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Restaurants from page 28

from Michigan and more than 20 wines poured by the glass.

Karl's entertainment includes dueling pianos and live bands on the weekends.

Karl's is highly recommended by diners as offering some of the finest meals in the area.

Reservations are recommended.

LaBistecca
Italian Grille
39405 Plymouth Road
Plymouth
(734) 254-0400

LaBistecca, a premier steak house and a favorite of diners throughout the area, also takes the art of food seriously. The restaurant offers a unique dining experience featuring Piedmontese Beef, which is recommended by the American Heart Association, exclusively. The succulent and tender steaks bring area diners back again and again. Piedmontese Beef is famous for flavor and texture while having much less fat than regular beef.

An award-winning Wine Spectator wine list at LaBistecca is certain to please every palate as diners relax in a well-appointed dining room and lounge. The restaurant is famous for offering a fine dining experience in a relaxed, yet elegant, atmosphere. Service is always excellent by a well-trained staff familiar with the menu

and able to answer any questions diners might have.

Live entertainment begins at 7 p.m. in the lounge Friday and Saturday.

Dinner is served beginning at 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Reservations are recommended as this is one of the most popular places

in the area with a well-earned reputation for excellence and superior quality.

Leo's Coney Island
41496 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, Mi
(734) 416-8200

The family recipe for the famous Greek Salad dressing along with the chili and other great homemade items has been the backbone of success for Leo's Coney Island. The Stassinopoulos brothers, Leo and Pete, have built a reputation for quality food and service.

Leo's Coney Island has evolved from a limited menu offering the basics of Coney Islands, fries, burgers and Greek Salads to a wide menu. Selections include a full line of items for the whole family including Greek specialties, breakfast, and a children's menu. Leo has made it his mission to provide the experience of a Coney Island, while also offering delicious homemade soups and family favorites.

Leo's is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday and 24 hours Wednesday through Saturdays.

The Inn at St. John's
44045 Five Mile Road
at Sheldon Road
Plymouth
(734) 414-0600

The Inn at St. John's is a Plymouth jewel. This breathtaking landmark is the premier location for overnight stays, gourmet dining, corporate conferences, weddings, receptions, executive meetings, charity galas, and golf outings. Metro Detroit's fourth largest hotel in terms of total meeting space, St. John's welcomes both locals and travelers to experience a blend of comfort and luxury.

For an inspired dining experience in a chic, inviting atmosphere, make a date at 5ive Restaurant, located off the hotel lobby at The Inn at St. John's. Diners can enjoy a thoughtfully selected, award-winning wine list, extensive offering of local brews and al fresco dining on the terrace in season. 5ive Restaurant is open daily, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Visit www.theinnatstjohns.com to receive emails re: wine dinners, beer dinners and other special events, Reservations at: (734) 357-5700 or www.opentable.com.

For a napkin-testing burger, visit the vintage diner-style Burger Loft, located above The Inn at St. John's Pro Shop. Making burger history since summer 2013, the Burger Loft offers a fresh take on the motif of a classic burger joint. Open during golf season from 4-9 p.m. on Mondays, and from 11:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The loft is closed Sundays.

Station 885
885 Starkweather
Old Village,
Plymouth
(734) 459-0885

Station 885 has become a tradition throughout the Plymouth area. After 33 years of serving great meals to families, they are obviously on the right track, according to owner Rob Costanza.

The Costanza family prides themselves on a fresh menu but never forgets the traditional dishes which have made Station 885 part of countless family events and celebrations for more than three decades.

They serve fresh Mama Mucci pasta and hand-cut steaks along with a selection of fresh fish.

Every Monday through Wednesday, the restaurant offers half-off prices on bottles of wine and there are lunch and dinner specials from the kitchen every day.

The restaurant is located adjacent to the railroad tracks in historic Old Village.

Station 885 is open from 11 a.m. until midnight Monday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The restaurant also offers a special Sunday Brunch from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. which includes various breakfast items along with prime rib, fresh shrimp, salads, fruits and made-to-order crepes and omelets.

Time travel

Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps brings history to life

The young members of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps traveled to historic landmarks across the country to perform again this year. They ended their tour with their participation in the Deep River Ancient Muster, one of the oldest and largest gatherings of fife and drum corps in the country.

Visitors to the Plymouth Fall Festival can take a trip back in time when the Plymouth Fife and Drums Corps performs on the main stage in Kellogg Park at noon on Saturday.

In their 47th performance season, the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps consists of young people, ranging in age from 12 to 18. The musicians wear red and blue uniforms, authentic in every detail to those worn by the Commander in Chief's Personal Life Guard of 1776 through 1983. Their music is also authentic to the 17th century, with some modern twists, and is the same as that heard by many famous names in American history. The corps musicians will appear after their most recent tour, during which they performed at historic sites in Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is a non-profit organization of students from Plymouth and surrounding communities, and members are dedicated to preserving the ancient arts of color guard, fifing and drumming. These dedicated students practice year round and average 40 to 50 live performances each year, including parades, patriotic celebrations, and other civic events throughout Michigan.

At the close of the summer performance season, the corps travels to historic landmarks to perform. This year, the corps travelled to Pennsylvania and Connecticut, performing at Fort Ligonier, Valley Forge and Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The corps then continued to Deep River, Connecticut, to participate in the Deep River Ancient Muster, one of the largest and oldest gatherings of fife and drum corps in the country. Throughout their travels, the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps proudly represented their hometown of Plymouth.

The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps hope the enticing aroma of freshly roasted almonds coming from their booth on Main Street next to Kellogg Park will tempt Fall Festival patrons to support their organization by purchasing the treats. The group does not receive any funding from the school system or the government, and the roasted almond sales help subsidize operating costs and activities of the corps. The corps members greatly appreciate the support they receives from patrons during the Fall Festival and hope that everyone will come out to see their performance.

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